



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation February 2015

Employment Climb Continues; Unemployment Rate Holds Steady

The number of South Carolinians working continues to march upward, reaching another historic high in February. The estimated number of employed people was 2,090,232, an increase of approximately 10,432 compared to January's estimate. The state's unemployment rate remained level at 6.6 percent.

People are not only entering the labor force at historic levels, they are finding employment. The labor force level was estimated at 2,238,648 people, an increase of 11,908 people over the month.

The estimated number of unemployed persons was 148,416, showing a modest increase since January of 1,476 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent in February from January's 5.7 percent.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

February's seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment increased by 10,400 to a level of 1,988,100, reaching a new record high for the second time this year.

- South Carolina's most prominent increase occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+4,000) with other gains in Construction (+2,500); Professional and Business Services (+1,700); Government (+1,400); and Manufacturing (+1,100).
- Additional increases were noted in Education and Health Services (+800) and Other Services (+300).
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-700); Financial Activities (-500); and Information (-200) reported declines.

Compared to a year ago, seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 62,800.

- Large growth was noted in Professional and Business Services (+13,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+12,400); and Leisure and Hospitality (+11,400).
- Additional gains were seen in Education and Health Services (+7,300); Government (+5,800); Manufacturing (+5,700); Construction (+4,300); and Other Services (+1,700) with smaller gains in Financial Activities (+500) and Information (+200).

- There were no declining industries during this period.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

The not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment in February reported an over-the-month upturn of 20,000 to a total of 1,964,300. Growth was concentrated in Leisure and Hospitality (+6,100); Government (+5,800); Professional and Business Services (+4,300); Education and Health Services (+2,900); Construction (+2,000); and Manufacturing (+800). Modest losses were in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-900); Financial Activities (-700); Information (-200); and Other Services (-100).

From February 2014 to February 2015, not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 65,500 overall in the state. Large gains came in Professional and Business Services (+13,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+13,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+12,500); Education and Health Services (+7,300); Government (+6,200); Manufacturing (+5,500); and Construction (+4,700). Smaller gains were reported in Other Services (+1,500); Financial Activities (+1,200); Information (+400); and Natural Resources and Mining (+100). No industries experienced declines during this time period.

¹**Seasonally Adjusted:** Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less regular pattern each year (i.e. tourist-related hiring and school closings in the summer). These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other nonseasonal movements in data over time.

²**Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February 2015

Industry	February 2015	January 2015	February 2014	January 2015 to February 2015		February 2014 to February 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,988,100	1,977,700	1,925,300	10,400	0.52%	62,800	3.16%
Construction	85,900	83,400	81,600	2,500	2.91%	4,300	5.01%
Manufacturing	232,700	231,600	227,000	1,100	0.47%	5,700	2.45%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	380,500	381,200	368,100	-700	-0.18%	12,400	3.26%
Information	26,400	26,600	26,200	-200	-0.76%	200	0.76%
Financial Activities	96,700	97,200	96,200	-500	-0.52%	500	0.52%
Professional and Business Services	261,800	260,100	248,400	1,700	0.65%	13,400	5.12%
Education and Health Services	230,100	229,300	222,800	800	0.35%	7,300	3.17%
Leisure and Hospitality	237,400	233,400	226,000	4,000	1.68%	11,400	4.80%
Other Services	72,800	72,500	71,100	300	0.41%	1,700	2.34%
Government	360,000	358,600	354,200	1,400	0.39%	5,800	1.61%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February 2015

Industry	February 2015	January 2015	February 2014	January 2015 to February 2015		February 2014 to February 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,964,300	1,944,300	1,898,800	20,000	1.03%	65,500	3.45%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,800	3,800	3,700	0	0.00%	100	2.70%
Construction	84,600	82,600	79,900	2,000	2.42%	4,700	5.88%
Manufacturing	232,000	231,200	226,500	800	0.35%	5,500	2.43%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	374,800	375,700	361,800	-900	-0.24%	13,000	3.59%
Information	26,400	26,600	26,000	-200	-0.75%	400	1.54%
Financial Activities	95,900	96,600	94,700	-700	-0.72%	1,200	1.27%
Professional and Business Services	257,100	252,800	244,000	4,300	1.70%	13,100	5.37%
Education and Health Services	230,500	227,600	223,200	2,900	1.27%	7,300	3.27%
Leisure and Hospitality	223,900	217,800	211,400	6,100	2.80%	12,500	5.91%
Other Services	71,900	72,000	70,400	-100	-0.14%	1,500	2.13%
Government	363,400	357,600	357,200	5,800	1.62%	6,200	1.74%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas

February 2015

*AREA	February 2015	January 2015	February 2014	January 2015 to February 2015		February 2014 to February 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	1,988,100	1,977,700	1,925,300	10,400	0.52%	62,800	3.16%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	329,300	324,400	317,700	4,900	1.49%	11,600	3.52%
Columbia MSA	382,100	376,400	369,200	5,700	1.49%	12,900	3.38%
Florence MSA	85,900	85,700	83,300	200	0.23%	2,600	3.03%
Sumter MSA	38,900	38,700	38,200	200	0.51%	700	1.80%

**As a result of the new Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) redefinition, there are only four South Carolina MSAs publishable under nonfarm, seasonally adjusted employment. MSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and are the result of the latest published standards from Census Bureau data. (The standards for defining the areas are reviewed and revised once every 10 years prior to each decennial census). Therefore, with the release of the 2014 benchmark, Current Employment Statistics will incorporate the updates to area definitions based on the new standards from the 2010 Census. As a result of the new standards, breaks have been created in the time series for these areas. Due to the breaks in the time series, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will be unable to publish all of the redefined areas on a seasonally adjusted basis. The South Carolina areas based on the 2010 standards and Census Bureau data were defined in February 2013.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas

February 2015

**AREA	February 2015	January 2015	February 2014	January 2015 to February 2015		February 2014 to February 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	1,964,300	1,944,300	1,898,800	20,000	1.03%	65,500	3.45%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	325,100	319,400	313,700	5,700	1.78%	11,400	3.63%
Columbia MSA	378,600	371,800	366,900	6,800	1.83%	11,700	3.19%
Florence MSA	85,600	85,100	82,900	500	0.59%	2,700	3.26%
Greenville MSA	392,800	390,100	380,300	2,700	0.69%	12,500	3.29%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	72,000	71,300	69,000	700	0.98%	3,000	4.35%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	146,600	144,400	138,800	2,200	1.52%	7,800	5.62%
Spartanburg MSA	140,100	139,100	135,300	1,000	0.72%	4,800	3.55%
Sumter MSA	38,800	38,700	38,100	100	0.26%	700	1.84%

Note: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

****As a result of the MSAs redefinition, a new area has been defined, and changes have occurred in three South Carolina not-seasonally adjusted MSAs. The new MSA is Hilton Head Island-Bluffton. The changed MSAs are as follows: Greenville MSA now incorporates Anderson County, thereby eliminating the Anderson MSA; Spartanburg now includes Union County; and Myrtle Beach Conway-North Myrtle Beach now includes Brunswick County, N.C.**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		February 2015				January 2015				February 2014 **			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Allendale County	↑	2,941	2,541	400	13.6	3,004	2,609	395	13.1	3,071	2,750	321	10.5
Marion County	↑	12,937	11,410	1,527	11.8	12,950	11,444	1,506	11.6	10,904	9,751	1,153	10.6
Bamberg County	↓	5,582	4,929	653	11.7	5,701	5,008	693	12.2	5,456	4,954	502	9.2
Orangeburg County	↓	38,164	33,759	4,405	11.5	38,470	33,893	4,577	11.9	38,115	35,021	3,094	8.1
Marlboro County	↑	9,968	8,861	1,107	11.1	9,978	8,903	1,075	10.8	10,915	9,939	976	8.9
Williamsburg County	↓	13,069	11,711	1,358	10.4	13,180	11,795	1,385	10.5	15,066	13,889	1,177	7.8
Barnwell County	↑	8,906	7,988	918	10.3	8,925	8,034	891	10.0	8,024	7,291	733	9.1
Hampton County	↑	8,511	7,651	860	10.1	8,610	7,783	827	9.6	7,420	6,857	563	7.6
Dillon County	↑	12,603	11,339	1,264	10.0	12,749	11,519	1,230	9.6	12,135	11,116	1,019	8.4
Chester County	↑	13,835	12,496	1,339	9.7	13,781	12,473	1,308	9.5	14,492	13,368	1,124	7.8
Georgetown County	—	25,463	23,041	2,422	9.5	25,553	23,131	2,422	9.5	28,613	26,763	1,850	6.5
Lee County	↓	6,474	5,870	604	9.3	6,561	5,919	642	9.8	7,757	7,235	522	6.7
Union County	—	11,761	10,673	1,088	9.3	11,695	10,606	1,089	9.3	11,450	10,573	877	7.7
Horry County	↓	131,090	119,041	12,049	9.2	129,761	117,437	12,324	9.5	121,587	112,862	8,725	7.2
Clarendon County	↑	13,048	11,865	1,183	9.1	13,157	12,001	1,156	8.8	11,754	10,840	914	7.8
Fairfield County	—	10,150	9,272	878	8.7	10,043	9,172	871	8.7	10,034	9,333	701	7.0
McCormick County	↓	3,586	3,275	311	8.7	3,586	3,268	318	8.9	3,203	2,953	250	7.8
Darlington County	↑	30,078	27,533	2,545	8.5	30,093	27,564	2,529	8.4	29,522	27,690	1,832	6.2
Cherokee County	↓	23,761	21,823	1,938	8.2	23,734	21,772	1,962	8.3	24,895	23,269	1,626	6.5
Calhoun County	—	6,990	6,434	556	8.0	6,940	6,382	558	8.0	6,306	5,976	330	5.2
Colleton County	↑	16,928	15,608	1,320	7.8	16,883	15,578	1,305	7.7	16,555	15,440	1,115	6.7
Abbeville County	↓	10,538	9,741	797	7.6	10,515	9,709	806	7.7	10,614	9,957	657	6.2
Florence County	—	64,959	60,101	4,858	7.5	64,624	59,783	4,841	7.5	61,894	58,058	3,836	6.2
Laurens County	—	30,268	27,993	2,275	7.5	30,119	27,849	2,270	7.5	29,617	28,103	1,514	5.1
Sumter County	↓	44,373	41,030	3,343	7.5	44,306	40,955	3,351	7.6	43,694	41,110	2,584	5.9
Greenwood County	—	31,766	29,460	2,306	7.3	31,785	29,473	2,312	7.3	30,045	28,246	1,799	6.0
Lancaster County	↓	34,869	32,364	2,505	7.2	34,762	32,241	2,521	7.3	32,964	30,876	2,088	6.3
Chesterfield County	—	21,270	19,806	1,464	6.9	21,401	19,914	1,487	6.9	18,270	17,050	1,220	6.7
Edgefield County	—	10,601	9,880	721	6.8	10,659	9,936	723	6.8	10,813	10,080	733	6.8
Aiken County	↓	73,697	68,890	4,807	6.5	73,611	68,768	4,843	6.6	75,943	71,399	4,544	6.0
Kershaw County	↓	28,354	26,501	1,853	6.5	28,106	26,198	1,908	6.8	28,916	27,540	1,376	4.8
Oconee County	—	34,476	32,252	2,224	6.5	34,553	32,316	2,237	6.5	31,046	29,272	1,774	5.7
Spartanburg County	—	137,268	128,380	8,888	6.5	136,393	127,585	8,808	6.5	138,053	131,375	6,678	4.8
York County	—	122,590	114,701	7,889	6.4	121,824	113,998	7,826	6.4	112,082	104,385	7,697	6.9
Berkeley County	—	91,170	85,447	5,723	6.3	89,619	83,943	5,676	6.3	85,501	81,391	4,110	4.8
Pickens County	↓	55,349	51,891	3,458	6.2	55,009	51,472	3,537	6.4	56,777	54,284	2,493	4.4
Richland County	↓	195,258	183,137	12,121	6.2	192,191	180,040	12,151	6.3	180,560	171,562	8,998	5.0
Anderson County	↓	87,034	81,756	5,278	6.1	86,535	81,187	5,348	6.2	86,313	82,436	3,877	4.5
Beaufort County	↓	68,709	64,485	4,224	6.1	68,450	64,109	4,341	6.3	64,370	61,389	2,981	4.6
Dorchester County	↓	70,434	66,192	4,242	6.0	69,339	65,053	4,286	6.2	68,068	65,077	2,991	4.4
Jasper County	↓	11,253	10,583	670	6.0	11,203	10,516	687	6.1	10,416	9,950	466	4.5
Newberry County	↓	18,422	17,336	1,086	5.9	18,650	17,538	1,112	6.0	17,586	16,773	813	4.6
Saluda County	↓	8,652	8,141	511	5.9	8,781	8,252	529	6.0	8,786	8,391	395	4.5
Greenville County	—	235,497	222,313	13,184	5.6	233,769	220,628	13,141	5.6	228,497	219,142	9,355	4.1
Charleston County	↓	192,615	181,984	10,631	5.5	189,282	178,764	10,518	5.6	175,219	167,741	7,478	4.3
Lexington County	↓	141,022	133,361	7,661	5.4	139,069	131,484	7,585	5.5	133,805	128,455	5,350	4.0
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	354,219	333,623	20,596	5.8	348,240	327,760	20,480	5.9	328,788	314,209	14,579	4.4
Columbia MSA	↓	390,426	366,846	23,580	6.0	385,130	361,528	23,602	6.1	368,408	351,258	17,150	4.7
Florence MSA	—	95,037	87,634	7,403	7.8	94,717	87,347	7,370	7.8	91,416	85,748	5,668	6.2
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	408,148	383,953	24,195	5.9	405,432	381,136	24,296	6.0	403,929	383,199	20,730	5.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	—	2,238,648	2,090,232	148,416	6.6	2,226,740	2,079,800	146,940	6.6	2,170,279	2,036,939	133,340	6.1

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

**2014 county estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process.

** The 2014 county estimates above are not revised. Bureau of Labor Statistics scheduled publication date for county benchmark revised estimates is April 21st.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
— Unemployment Rate =